

NOTES AND NEWS

LYMAN BELDING, a Retired Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union died at Stockton, Calif., Nov. 22, 1917. He was born at West Farms (Northampton), Mass., June 12, 1829, and at the time of his death was nearly eighty-eight and a half years old. He was the oldest member of the Union and the oldest American ornithologist.

Mr. Belding became interested in birds about 1876 and during the next 20 years was prominently identified with field work in California and Lower California. In 1879 he published 'A Partial List of the Birds of Central California' containing notes on 220 species. Two years later he made a trip to Cerros Island and San Quentin Bay, L. C. In the winters of 1881-82 and 1882-83 he made two trips to the Cape region of Lower California where he collected the types of several new birds and added much to our knowledge of the avifauna of the region. The results of these trips appeared in several papers in 1883 in the Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum. Upon the organization of the American Ornithologists' Union he was selected by the Committee on Bird Migration to take charge of the migration work in the Pacific District. For two or three years he carried on this work actively and the results were published in 1890 in his well known 'Land Birds of the Pacific District'. A corresponding volume on the 'Water Birds of the Pacific District' was prepared but never published and the manuscript is now deposited in the Bancroft Library of the University of California.

Mr. Belding's field work in California was done mainly in the vicinity of San Diego, Gridley, Marysville, Stockton, and in the Sierras in Calaveras and Placer counties. Among the birds which bear his name are Belding's Jay (*Aphelocoma californica obscura*), *Geothlypis beldingi*, *Oceanodroma beldingi*, *Passerculus beldingi* and *Rallus beldingi*. He was elected an Active Member of the American Ornithologists' Union at the first meeting in 1883 and he was placed on the list of Retired Fellows in 1911. In 1896 he was made an Honorary Member of the Cooper Ornithological Club. His portrait was published in 'The Condor' in 1900 (vol. II, p. 2).

In accordance with the custom of recent years an address on his life and work will be presented at the next meeting of the Union. The President of the Union has appointed Dr. A. K. Fisher to prepare this memorial.—T. S. P.

DR. HENRY MCHATTON, of Macon, Ga., an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1898, died of pneumonia on April 22, 1917, shortly after returning from Florida where he had spent the winter. Dr. McHatton was born at Baton Rouge, La., on the 29th of February, 1856. His parental home was a large sugar plantation on the Mississippi River just south of Baton Rouge, but on account of conditions brought about by the Civil War the family was forced to leave this home when he was seven years old. From Louisiana they traveled by wagon through Texas to the Mexican border, several months being occupied in making the trip. From northern Mexico Dr. McHatton's father went to Cuba, where he again took up his business of sugar growing. After the ten years' war in Cuba and the death of his father, Dr. McHatton returned to the United States, going to New York City, where he studied medicine and graduated from the old Bellevue College of Medicine in 1881. On account of his health he moved in 1883 to Macon, Ga., where he took up the practice of his profession.

Through the varied experiences of his youth the love of out doors was intensified as years went by. He was always interested in anything pertaining to ornithology and a personal knowledge of the habits of birds, animals and fish was a source of constant pleasure to him. He was an officer of the original Audubon Society of Georgia which was reorganized a few years ago. In his death the game and fish of Georgia lost a great friend.— T. H. McHatton.

ORNITHOLOGICAL WORK IN 1917.¹—At the recent meeting of the Union an hour was devoted to a consideration of 'Ornithological Work in 1917' for the purpose of reviewing briefly the activities of the year. While war conditions have necessarily curtailed activity in various directions and especially in field work, the review showed that much had been accomplished although most of the published work was necessarily based on investigations made in previous years.

Field Work. Of chief interest is the work accomplished by several of the museums through expeditions and special collectors.

The Museum of Vertebrate Zoölogy of Berkeley, Calif., devoted its attention chiefly to the southwest. H. S. Swarth visited southern Arizona and obtained material for a report on the birds found on the Apache Trail, while Grinnell and Dixon spent some time in the Death Valley region in California. In the north W. E. C. Todd was in the field five months in charge of the Carnegie Museum Expedition to northern Quebec. In tropical America the activity of previous years has decreased with the return of the American Museum Expeditions from South America but one party, comprising Messrs. Miller, Griscom and Richardson, spent four months collecting

¹ The following summary is based on a discussion of the subject in which A. A. Allen, Frank M. Chapman, H. K. Job, H. C. Oberholser, T. Gilbert Pearson and the Secretary took part. Extended titles and references to papers are omitted as most of the publications here mentioned are reviewed in the volumes of 'The Auk' for 1917 or 1918.

for the Museum in Nicaragua. In the West Indies, Haiti and San Domingo have been the center of attraction. W. L. Abbott, Rollo H. Beck, and Paul Bartsch visited the island at different times and each secured some remarkable birds or made substantial additions to our knowledge of the local avifauna. In South America Beebe spent some time at the tropical laboratory near Georgetown, British Guiana, and Beck returned from southern Patagonia with rich collections of sea birds. From the Orient the American Museum Expedition to China, Yunnan, and northern India in charge of Roy C. Andrews returned after successfully completing its field work, and from Celebes, H. C. Raven sent some valuable collections of birds to the U. S. National Museum.

In the United States the work of the Biological Survey has been carried on with the usual activity in a number of States. In the south A. H. Howell continued his field studies of the birds of Alabama and Francis Harper visited the Okefinokee Swamp in Georgia and the everglade region in Florida. In the west H. H. T. Jackson began work on a biological survey of Wisconsin and H. C. Oberholser investigated the breeding ground of waterfowl in North Dakota. In Montana E. A. Preble collected in the southeastern part of the state south of the Northern Pacific Railroad, and Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Bailey spent some weeks studying the birds of the Glacier National Park and collected material for a report to be issued in coöperation with the National Park Service. In the Northwest preliminary work on a biological survey of Washington was begun by W. P. Taylor and in the southwest E. A. Goldman collected in northern Arizona south of the Grand Canyon.

Economic Ornithology. Studies of the food of birds, especially ducks, and of methods of attracting birds have been continued by W. L. McAtee, a new study of the crow has been made by E. R. Kalmbach and the European Starling has been the subject of an investigation by Kalmbach and Gabrielson. A report on the game birds of California by Grinnell, Bryant and Storer has been completed and is now in press. In the field of experimentation much work has been done by H. K. Job at Amston, Conn., at the Bird Experiment Station of the National Association of Audubon Societies.

Literature. The publications of the year, while perhaps fewer in number than those for some years immediately preceding the war, include a number of important titles. Among general works should be mentioned the annual volume of the 'Zoölogical Record' for 1915 containing 934 titles on birds, Ridgway's 'Birds of North and Middle America,' Vol. VIII, devoted to Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns (the manuscript has been completed but not printed), Mathews' great work on the 'Birds of Australia' of which five parts of Vol. VI have recently appeared, the seventh edition of Mrs. Bailey's 'Handbook of the Birds of the Western United States,' and a popular work in three volumes on the 'Birds of America,' edited by T. Gilbert Pearson and published in the Nature Lovers' Library. Of the many faunal publications, Chapman's comprehensive volume on the 'Dis-

tribution of Bird Life in Colombia' is probably the most important, while Beebe's 'Tropical Wild Life in British Guiana,' and W. S. Brooks' Notes on 'Falkland Island Birds,' based on the work of the Phillips Expedition of 1915-16, furnish glimpses of the avifauna of the extremes of the South American continent. Two important reports on insular bird life off the North American coast are Howell's 'Birds of the Islands off the Coast of Southern California' and Hanna's paper on the 'Birds of St. Matthew Island' in Bering Sea. Among the numerous papers on the birds of the Eastern Hemisphere, Despott's 'Notes on the Ornithology of Malta', Captain Sladen's 'Notes on Birds observed in Macedonia', Sclater's 'Birds of Yemen, southwest Arabia', Oberholser's 'Birds of Bawean Island, Java Sea', and 'Birds of the Anamba Islands in the China Sea'. H. L. White's account of North Australian Birds' and J. P. Chapin's 'Classification of Weaver Birds' merit special mention. The more technical papers comprise Richmond's third supplement to Waterhouse's 'Index Generum Avium', containing 600 'Generic Names applied to Birds during the years 1906 to 1915 inclusive', Oberholser's series of 'Notes on North American Birds', and Wayne's 'List of Species for which South Carolina is the type locality'. Bergtold's extended 'Study of the Incubation Periods of Birds' and Casey A. Wood's 'Fundus Oculi of Birds' are notable contributions to little cultivated fields of ornithological literature. Avian anatomy has received some attention in Wetmore's 'Secondary Characters in the Ruddy Duck' and Petronievic and Woodward's paper 'On the Pectoral and Pelvic Arches of the British Museum Specimen of *Archæopteryx*' (P. Z. S. pp. 1-6). New light has been thrown on some of the extinct birds of the United States by Matthew and Granger's description of 'The Skeleton of *Diatryma*' from the Eocene of Wyoming, and Shufeldt's accounts of Fossil Birds from Vero, Florida. In the department of biography the record of the year is rather remarkable. Here should be mentioned J. A. Allen's notable 'Autobiography' (printed in 1916 but not generally distributed until early in the present year) Herrick's 'Audubon the Naturalist', in two volumes, and the final parts of Mullens and Swann's 'Bibliography of British Ornithology'.

Educational Work. A notable feature of ornithological work of the twentieth century is the ever increasing attention given to bird study in the schools and colleges. As an aid to beginners in this subject Pearson has prepared a useful and instructive 'Bird Study Book'. Foremost in the educational field is the National Association of Audubon Societies which during the year has organized 11935 Junior Audubon Classes in which instruction on birds has been given to 261,654 children in the United States and Canada. The Association has also arranged for courses in bird study in 11 Summer Schools including the Maryland Agricultural College, University of Virginia, Summer School of the South at Knoxville, Tenn., the State Universities of Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina and Vermont and several other institutions. A course in ornithology was given this year at the summer Biological Station of the

University of Michigan. Cornell University, which for several years has given credit for ornithology in undergraduate work, now includes bird work in graduate courses leading to the degree of M. S. and Ph.D., has established a course of instruction in game breeding, and at the recent session of the legislature secured an appropriation of \$15,000 for a game farm to be administered along educational and experimental lines.

Legislation. Among the 250 or more game laws enacted in the United States in 1917 by the various state legislatures are many that affect birds. A strong tendency has been manifested to suspend the shooting of certain game birds for several years. The Sage Grouse has been protected at all seasons in about half of its present range and similar protection has been given Prairie Chickens in Idaho, Iowa, and Oklahoma; Quail in Idaho, Iowa, Nebraska and Ohio; Woodcock in eight states in the Mississippi Valley; and all shore birds except Jacksnipe in California. Stringent plumage laws in Oklahoma now forbid the sale of aigrettes and in California prohibit traffic in aigrettes, Birds of Paradise, Goura Pigeons and Numidi. A general effort has been made to bring the state laws into conformity with the Federal migratory bird regulations and in twenty-one states the open seasons on waterfowl are now practically uniform with the Federal seasons. This has resulted in general prohibition of spring shooting. A law to carry into effect the provisions of the treaty protecting migratory birds, ratified last year, has been passed by Canada and a similar enabling act to carry the treaty into effect in the United States has passed the Senate and is now awaiting action by the House of Representatives at the present session of Congress.—T. S. P.

THE LIST OF FELLOWS OF THE A. O. U.—The election of Percy A. Taverner to fill the only vacancy in the list of Fellows at the recent meeting of the Union recalls the fact that although the number of Fellows has always been restricted to fifty, the limit has been reached on only two previous occasions and in each case a full list was maintained little more than a year. The list was first filled at the 7th Congress in 1889 by the election of Dr. A. P. Chadbourne, and sixteen months later, on March 10, 1891, a vacancy occurred through the death of Col. N. S. Goss. Twenty-three years later the limit was again reached in 1914, but the death of Dr. D. G. Elliot on Dec. 22, 1915, caused a vacancy and three others occurred before the next meeting in 1916.

The total number of Active Members or Fellows elected during the thirty-four years of the existence of the Union is apparently eighty-three. In addition to the fifty names now on the list of Fellows, are seventeen on the Deceased list, four placed on the Retired list (two now deceased), five transferred to the Corresponding list (four now deceased), and seven names of persons who either failed to qualify or retained their membership only a few years. Those transferred to the Corresponding list include: Montague Chamberlain, a Founder, 1901; Dr. D. Webster Prentiss, deceased, a Founder, transferred in 1895; Dr. J. G. Cooper, deceased, elected in 1883

and transferred in 1884; Capt. T. W. Blakiston, deceased, elected to the Active list in 1884 (Auk, 1884, p. 370) but always included among the Corresponding Members; and Walter E. Bryant, elected in 1888 and transferred in 1900, five years before his death. Prof. F. H. King, elected in 1883, apparently did not qualify, nor did Prof. F. E. L. Beal who was elected again in 1901, and six others retained active membership only a few years: H. B. Bailey, a Founder, until 1891; Prof. S. A. Forbes, 1883-1892; L. S. Foster, 1888-1902; Dr. Henry Kidder, 1883-1888; Dr. F. W. Langdon, 1887-1897; and W. E. D. Scott, 1886-1895.

Twelve of the twenty-three Founders are still living and ten are enrolled in the list of Fellows.—T. S. P.

CALLED TO THE COLORS.—At the recent meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union the Secretary was instructed to prepare a list of the members who have entered military service either with the army or navy. This instruction has been construed broadly to include not merely those who have been drafted but also those who are serving in officers' training camps, in hospitals, with the Red Cross, or in Y. M. C. A. military work. Such a list is necessarily incomplete and subject to constant change but will be of permanent interest in showing the part taken by members in the war.

ANTHONY, H. E., New York City. Officers Training Camp, Plattsburg, N. Y.

BEEBE, C. WILLIAM, New York City. American Flying Corps.

BOYLE, HOWARTH S., New York City. In France.

BROOKS, ALLAN, Okanagan Landing, B. C. Major Second Army School of Scouting etc., British Expeditionary Forces in France.

BROOKS, W. SPRAGUE, Boston, Mass. In the Navy.

BURLEIGH, THOMAS D., Pittsburg, Pa. Y. M. C. A. Army & Navy Association, in France.

CHAPIN, JAMES P., New York City. Officers Training Camp, Plattsburg, N. Y.

DUGMORE, A. RADCLIFFE, New York City. Captain, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, now in the United States.

GRISCOM, LUDLOW, New York City. Officers Training Camp, Plattsburg, N. Y.

HARPER, FRANCIS, Washington, D. C. Corporal Co. C, 312th Machine Gun Battalion, Camp Meade, Md.

HOLT, ERNEST G., Washington, D. C. Corporal Co. C, 312th Machine Gun Battalion, Camp Meade, Md.

KITTREDGE, JOSEPH, JR., Missoula, Mont. First Lieut., 10th Engineers (Forest), in France.

MAYFIELD, DR. GEORGE R., Nashville, Tenn. In France.

MEYER, MISS HELOISE, Lenox, Mass. Red Cross, in France.

PEPPER, DR. WILLIAM, Major, Medical Reserve Corps, Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga.

- PETERS, JAMES LEE, Harvard, Mass. 2d Lieut. Quartermaster's Corps, Camp Devens, Ayer, Mass.
PHILLIPS, DR. JOHN C., Wenham, Mass. Medical Corps, Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, Ind.
SANBORN, COLIN CAMPBELL, Evanston, Ill. Battery C, 149th U. S. Artillery, Fort Sheridan, Ill.
STEINSON, DR. ARTHUR M., Washington, D. C. Medical Corps of the Navy, Newport, R. I.
STORER, TRACY IRWIN, Berkeley, Calif. Base Hospital, Camp Lewis, American Lake, Wash.
YOUNG, JOHN P., Youngstown, O. Captain Co. —, Camp Dix, Wrightstown, N. J.

In addition to the above list mention should be made of Dr. and Mrs. Frank M. Chapman who have taken up their residence temporarily in Washington, D. C., and are devoting their entire time to work with the Red Cross, Dr. Chapman (F) being in charge of the Red Cross bureau of publications.

Relatives or friends who may have additional information concerning these or other members are requested to communicate with the Secretary giving any facts as to rank, branch of the service or present location of members in military service in order that necessary corrections in the list may be made from time to time.

T. S. Palmer,
Secretary.

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Just as we go to press we have received Dr. Frank M. Chapman's work on 'The Distribution of Bird Life in Colombia', forming Volume XXXVI of the 'Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History' and embodying the results of the various expeditions sent out to Colombia by the museum during the years 1910-1915. This work which is one of the most important contributions ever made to neotropical ornithology will be reviewed at length in the April issue of 'The Auk'.